

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /119 W
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P R 291553Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7446
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

UNCLAS ATHENS 7515

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EO TAGS AND SUBJECT PREV OMITTED)

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: GREEK PRESS NOTES TRIPS BY NIMETZ
AND CHRISTOPHER

1. THE VISIT OF COUNSELOR NIMETZ TO NICOSIA HAS BEEN WIDELY
REPORTED IN ATHENS, LARGELY IN SINGLE PARAGRAPH STORIES, WITH
ACCOUNTS BASED PRIMARILY ON REMARKS BY THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT
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SPOKESMAN WHICH WERE REPORTED HERE BEFORE THE STATEMENT BY THE
DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN.
MOST ACCOUNTS MADE THE POINT THAT NO "MEDIATION" IS BEING
UNDERTAKEN, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL PAPERS EDITORIALY REFUSED TO
BELIEVE IT. BOTH COMMUNIST PAPERS THOUGHT THAT THE NIMETZ VISIT
MEANT THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO "NATOIZE" THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.
AN EDITORIAL IN ULTRA CONSERVATIVE ESTIA, "A NEW COLLUSION,"

CYNICALLY OBSERVED THAT NIMETZ WILL PROBABLY HAVE SOME "PROPOSALS" IN HAND, THAT THE TURKS WILL MAKE INSUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS FOR APPEARANCE'S SAKE AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL THEN BE ABLE TO CERTIFY TO THE CONGRESS THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, CONSONANT WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO. THERE WAS SOME SPECULATION THAT NIMETZ MIGHT, AFTER ALL, COME TO ATHENS AND ANKARA, DESPITE THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT TO THE CONTRARY.

2. AN EARLY OCTOBER TRIP BY DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER TO GREECE WAS ALSO NOTED IN THE AUGUST 29 PRESS, BASED ON A SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY DISPATCH FROM NEW YORK WHICH CITED "PRESS REPORTS" AS THE SOURCE. THE REPORT WENT ON TH STATE THAT "RECENT CHANGES AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT GAVE MR. CHRISTOPHER LARGER RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO GREEK AFFAIRS." LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA'S ACCOUNT, DATELINED NEW YORK, ADDED THAT CHRISTOPHER'S MAIN ITEM FOR DISCUSSION IN ATHENS WILL BE THE BASE AGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DCA. WASHINGTON WILL SEEK TO MAKE THIS AGREEMENT FINAL BEFORE THE DISCUSSION OF GREECE'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP STATUS WITH NATO PROCEEDS, THE ACCOUNT STATED. OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE, WILL INCLUDE GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND T HE CYPRUS PROBLEM. ELEFTHEROTYPIA THOUGHT THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MIGHT ALSO VISIT ANKARA AND NICOSIA AFTER ATHENS.

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